

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 01047 030948Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 /021 W

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R 030630Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 947

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1047

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR EA: HABIB FROM OLMSTED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: ACCREDITATION OF MILITARY ATTACHE

REF: STATE 234770

1. I AGREE THAT U.S. INTEREST HERE DOES NOT WARRANT ASSIGNMENT OF RESIDENT MILITARY ATTACHE HERE, AND IN FACT WOULD FEAR THAT A MILATT WOULD HAVE SO LITTLE OFFICIAL MILITARY BUSINESS THAT HE WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN MATTERS HE SHOULD STAY OUT OF.

2. I HAVE PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, WITH THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL MADE BY CANBERRA'S DEFATT (NUNEMAKER) WHO HAS JUST FINISHED A FOUR DAY VISIT HERE. NUNEMAKER WANTS TO MAKE REGULAR OFFICIAL VISITS HERE SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR WITHOUT ACCREDITATION TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH THE EMBASSY AND THE PNG MILITARY AND TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. I CONSIDER THIS TO BE A CLEAR CIRCUMVENTION OF THE NEW POLICY LAID DOWN BY THE GPNG AND BELIEVE THE GPNG WOULD VIEW IT IN THE SAME LIGHT. I THINK THIS COULD BE THE SOURCE OF REAL EMBARRASSMENT TO US.

3. FURTHER, I WOULD HAVE NO CONTROL OVER MILITARY PEOPLE ON THE STAFF OF EMBASSY CANBERRA WHO WOULD VISIT HERE. MY CONCERN ARISES FROM AN EPISODE THAT
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OCCURRED THIS WEEK. COL. NUNEMAKER HAD SUGGESTED A

POSSIBLE U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE (GRANT AID)
TRAINING PROGRAM AS A TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION DURING HIS
VISIT. I CABLED HIM THAT I DID NOT WANT HIM TO DISCUSS
THIS MATTER WITH THE PNG MILITARY UNTIL AN AGREED USG POSITION
HAD BEEN REACHED. HE CABLED BACK THIS WAS FOR INTERNAL DIS-
CUSSION ONLY. NEVERTHELESS, HE THEN TOLD THE COMMANDER
OF THE PNG DEFENSE FORCE THAT THE COMMANDER WOULD
WANT TO THINK ABOUT DIVERSIFYING HIS SOURCES
OF AID NOW THAT INDEPENDENCE IS HERE. TWO DAYS LATER
THE COMMANDER APPROACHED ME ON THE SUBJECT OF U.S.
MILITARY AID. I DISCOURAGED HIM, OF COURSE, BUT THE
IDEA HAS NOW BEEN PLANTED.

4. MY OWN FEELING IS THAT THE POL OFFICER ON MY
STAFF CAN DO WHATEVER GENERAL POL/MIL WORK IS NECESSARY,
AND WE SHOULD HAVE NEITHER MILITARY ACCREDITATION NOR
MILITARY VISITS HERE FROM CANBERRA FOR THE FORESEEABLE
FUTURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ATTACHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTM01047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750343-0813
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751083/aaaacwdu.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 75 STATE 234770
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACCREDITATION OF MILITARY ATTACHE
TAGS: MILI, PP, AS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006